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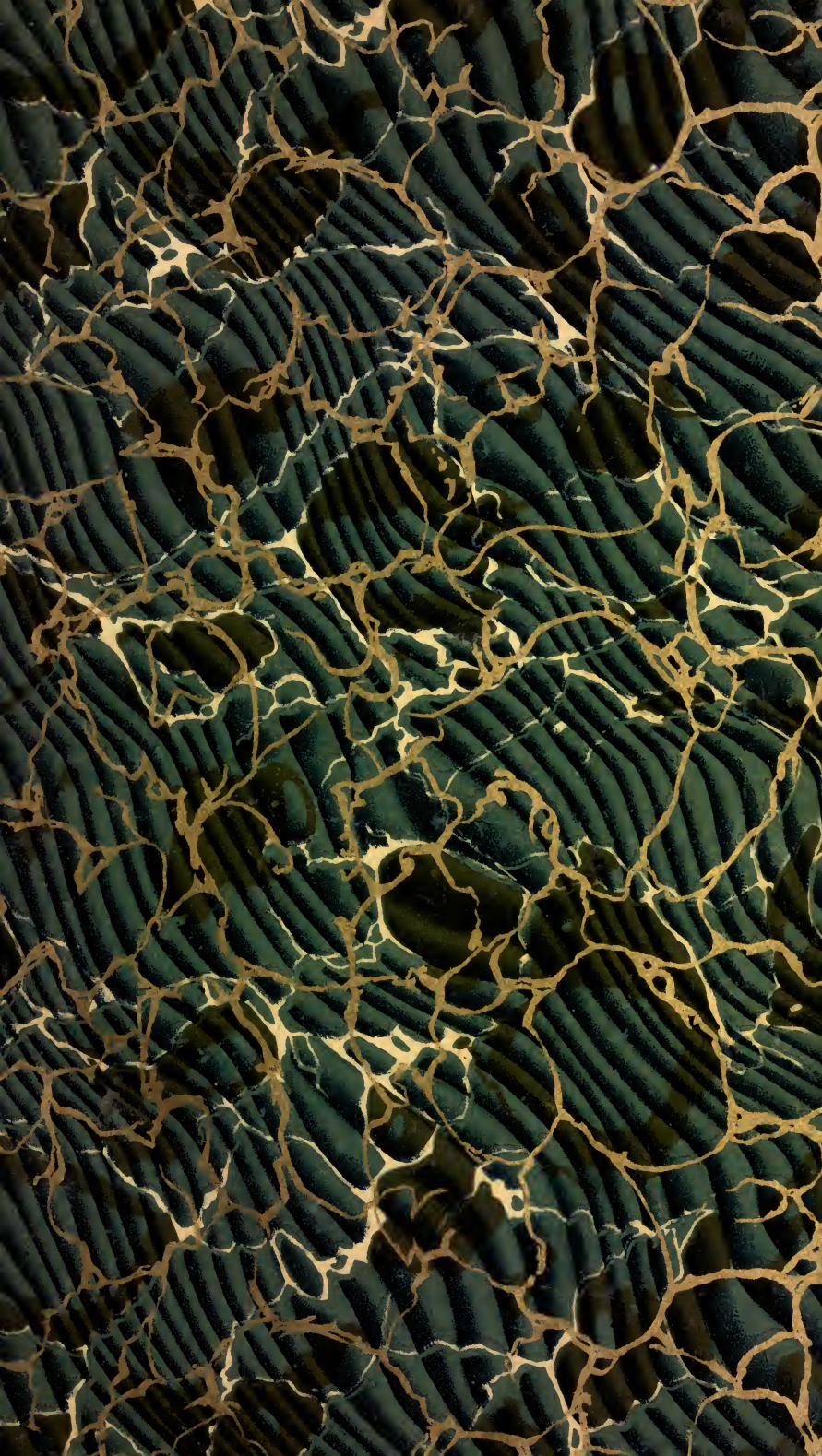
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THE
INSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
FORMED BY THE
OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES,
AT THE CANTONMENT ON THE BANKS OF HUDSON'S RIVER,
MAY 10, 1783:
WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, JUNE 9, 1783,
TO JULY 4, 1811.

BOSTON.

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1812.



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CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN ARMY.

*Cantonment of the American Army, on
Hudson's River, May 10th, 1783.*

PROPOSALS for establishing a Society upon principles therein mentioned, whose members shall be the officers of the American Army, having been communicated to the several regiments of the respective lines, they appointed an officer from each, who, in conjunction with the General Officers, should take the same into consideration at their meeting this day, at which the Honourable Major-General Baron de Steuben, the senior officer present, was pleased to preside.

The proposals being read, fully considered, paragraph by paragraph, and the amendments agreed to....

Major-General KNOX,
 Brigadier-General HAND,
 Brigadier-General HUNTINGTON, and
 Captain SHAW,

were chosen to revise the same, and prepare a copy to be laid before this Assembly at their next meeting, to be holden at Major-General Baron de Steuben's quarters, on Tuesday the 13th instant.



TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1783.

THE representatives of the American Army being assembled, agreeably to adjournment, the plan for establishing a society, whereof the officers of the American Army are to be members, is accepted, and is as follows, viz.

IT having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe, in the disposition of

human affairs, to cause the separation of the Colonies of North-America from the domination of Great-Britain, and after a bloody conflict of eight years, to establish them FREE, INDEPENDENT, and SOVEREIGN STATES, connected by alliances, founded on reciprocal advantages, with some of the greatest princes and powers of the earth.

“To perpetuate, therefore, as well the remembrance of this vast event, as the mutual friendships which have been formed under the pressure of common danger, and in many instances cemented by the blood of the parties ; the officers of the American Army do hereby in the most solemn manner, associate, constitute, and combine themselves into one SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of their eldest male posterity, and in failure thereof, the collateral branches, who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters and members.

“ The officers of the American army having generally been taken from the citizens of America, possess high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, **LUCIUS QUINTIUS CINCINNATUS**, and being resolved to follow his example, by returning to their citizenship, they think they may with propriety denominate themselves the

SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

“ The following principles shall be immutable, and form the basis of the Society of the Cincinnati.

“ An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature, for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

“ An unalterable determination to promote and cherish, between the respective states, that union and national honour, so essentially necessary to their happiness,

and the future dignity of the American empire.

“To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers ; this spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things, and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the society, towards those officers and their families, who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it.

“The general society will, for the sake of frequent communications, be divided into state societies, and these again into such districts as shall be directed by the state society.

“The societies of the districts to meet as often as shall be agreed upon by the state society ; those of the state on the fourth day of July, annually, or oftener, if they shall find it expedient ; and the general society on the first Monday in May, annually,

so long as they shall deem it necessary, and afterwards, at least once in every three years.

“At each meeting, the principles of the institution will be fully considered, and the best measures to promote them adopted.

“The state societies will consist of all the members resident in each state respectively ; and any member removing from one state to another, is to be considered, in all respects, as belonging to the society of the state in which he shall actually reside.

“The state societies to have a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant-treasurer, to be chosen annually by a majority of votes, at the state meeting.

“Each state meeting shall write annually, or oftener, if necessary, a circular letter, to the other state societies, noting whatever they may think worthy of observation, respecting the good of the society, or

the general union of the states, and giving information of the officers chosen for the current year. Copies of these letters shall be regularly transmitted to the secretary-general of the society, who will record them in a book to be assigned for that purpose.

“The state society will regulate every thing respecting itself and the societies of the districts, consistent with the general maxims of the Cincinnati; judge of the qualifications of the members who may be proposed; and expel any member, who, by conduct inconsistent with a gentleman and a man of honour, or by an opposition to the interests of the community in general, or the society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue a member.

“In order to form funds which may be respectable, and assist the unfortunate, each officer shall deliver to the treasurer of the state society, one month's pay, which shall remain forever to the use of the state soci-

ety; the interest only of which, if necessary, to be appropriated to the relief of the unfortunate.

“Donations may be made by persons not of the society, and by members of the society, for the express purpose of forming permanent funds for the use of the state society; and the interest of these donations appropriated in the same manner as that of the month’s pay.

“Moneys, at the pleasure of each member, may be subscribed in the societies of the districts, or the state societies, for the relief of the unfortunate members, or their widows and orphans, to be appropriated by the state society only.

“The meeting of the general society shall consist of its officers and a representation from each state society, in number not exceeding five, whose expenses shall be borne by their respective state societies.

“ In the general meeting, the president, vice-president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and assistant-treasurer general, shall be chosen to serve until the next meeting.

“ The circular letters which have been written by the respective state societies to each other, and their particular laws, shall be read and considered, and all measures concerted which may conduce to the general intendment of the society.

“ It is probable that some persons may make donations to the general society, for the purpose of establishing funds for the further comfort of the unfortunate ; in which case, such donations must be placed in the hands of the treasurer-general, the interest only of which to be disposed of, if necessary, by the general meeting.

“ All the officers of the American Army, as well those who have resigned with honour, after three years' service in the capa-

city of officers, or who have been deranged by the resolutions of Congress, upon the several reforms of the army, as those who shall have continued to the end of the war, have the right to become parties to this institution ; provided that they subscribe one month's pay, and sign their names to the general rules, in their respective state societies....those who are present with the army immediately, and others within six months after the army shall be disbanded, extraordinary cases excepted. The rank, time of service, resolutions of Congress by which any have been deranged, and place of residence, must be added to each name ; and as a testimony of affection to the memory and the offspring of such officers as have died in the service, their eldest male branches shall have the same right of becoming members, as the children of the actual members of the society.

“ Those officers who are foreigners, not resident in any of the states, will have their names enrolled by the secretary-general,

and are to be considered as members in the societies of any of the states in which they may happen to be.

“ And as there are, and will at all times be, men in the respective states eminent for their abilities and patriotism, whose views may be directed to the same laudable objects with those of the Cincinnati, it shall be a rule to admit such characters, as honorary members of the society, for their own lives only : Provided always, That the number of honorary members, in each state, does not exceed a ratio of one to four of the officers or their descendants.

“ Each state society shall obtain a list of its members, and, at the first annual meeting, the state-secretary shall have engrossed, on parchment, two copies of the institution of the society, which every member present shall sign ; and the secretary shall endeavour to procure the signature of every absent member ; one of those lists to be transmitted to the secretary-general to be

kept in the archives of the society, and the other to remain in the hands of the state-secretary. From the state-lists, the secretary-general must make out, at the first general meeting, a complete list of the whole society, with a copy of which he will furnish each state-secretary.

“The society shall have an Order, by which its members shall be known and distinguished, which shall be a medal of gold, of a proper size to receive the emblems, and suspended by a deep blue ribband, two inches wide, edged with white, descriptive of the union of America and Francè, viz.

“The principal figure
CINCINNATUS,

THREE SENATORS

Presenting him with a sword and other

MILITARY ENSIGNS.

On a field in the back ground,

HIS WIFE

Standing at the door of their cottage ;

Near it

A plough and implements of HUSBANDRY.

Round the whole,

OMNIA RELIQUIT SERVARE REMPUBLICAM.

On the reverse,

SUN rising ; a city with open gates, and

VESSELS entering the port ;

FAME

Crowning CINCINNATUS with a wreath,

Inscribed

VIRTUTIS PRÆMIUM.

Below,

HANDS joined, supporting a HEART,

With the motto,

ESTO PERPETUA.

Round the whole,

SOCIETAS CINCINNATORUM INSTITUTA,

A. D. 1783.”

The Society, deeply impressed with a sense of the generous assistance this country has received from France, and desirous of perpetuating the friendships which have been formed, and so happily subsisted, between the officers of the allied forces, in the prosecution of the war ; direct, that the president-general transmit, as soon as may be, to each of the characters hereafter named, a medal containing the order of the society, viz.

His Excellency the Chevalier de la Luzerne, Minister Plenipotentiary,

His Excellency the Sieur Gerard, late Minister Plenipotentiary,

Their Excellencies...the Count de Estaing,
the Count de Grasse,
the Count de Barras,
the Chevalier de Touches,

Admirals and Commanders in the Navy ;

His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau,
Commander in Chief,

And the generals and colonels of his army.

And acquaint them, that the society do themselves the honour to consider them as members.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing institution be given to the senior officer of each state line, and that the officers of the respective state lines, sign their names to the same, in manner and form following. viz.

“We, the subscribers, officers of the American Army, do hereby voluntarily become parties to the foregoing institution, and do bind ourselves to observe, and be governed by, the principles therein contained. For the performance whereof we do solemnly pledge to each other our sacred honour.

*Done in the Cantonment, on Hudson's
River, in the year 1783.”*

That the members of the society, at the time of subscribing their names to the institution, do also sign a draft on the pay-

master-general, in the following terms (the regiments to do it regimentally, and the generals and other officers not belonging to regiments, each for himself, individually) viz.

“ To JOHN PIERCE, Esq. paymaster-general to the army of the United States.

SIR,

PLEASE to pay to treasurer for the state association of the Cincinnati, or his order, one month's pay of our several grades respectively, and deduct the same from the balance which shall be found due to us on the final liquidation of our accounts ; for which this shall be your warrant.”

That the members of the several state societies assemble as soon as may be, for the choice of their president and other officers ; and that the presidents correspond together, and appoint a meeting of the offi-

cers who may be chosen for each state, in order to pursue such further measures as may be judged necessary.

That the general officers, and the officers delegated to represent the several corps of the army, subscribe to the institution of the general society, for themselves and their constituents, in the manner and form before prescribed.

That General Heath,

General Baron de Steuben, and

General Knox,

be a committee to wait on his excellency the commander in chief, with a copy of the institution, and request him to honour the society by placing his name at the head of it.

That major-general Heath, second in command in this army, be, and he hereby is desired to transmit copies of the institution, with the proceedings thereon, to the commanding officer of the southern army,

the senior officer in each state, from Pennsylvania to Georgia, inclusive, and to the commanding officer of the Rhode-Island line, requesting them to communicate the same to the officers under their several commands, and to take such measures as may appear to them necessary for expediting the establishment of their state societies, and sending a delegation to represent them in the first general meeting to be holden on the first Monday in May, 1784.

The meeting then adjourned without day.

*Cantonment of the American Army,
19th of June, 1783.*

At a meeting of the general officers, and the gentlemen delegated by the respective regiments, as a convention for establishing the society of the Cincinnati, held by the request of the president, at which were present,

Major-general Baron de Steuben, president.

Major-general Howe,

Major-general Knox,

Brigadier-general Patterson,

Brigadier-general Hand,

Brigadier-general Huntington,

Brigadier-general Putnam,

Colonel Webb,

Lieutenant-colonel Huntington,

Major Pettengill,

Lieutenant Whiting,

Colonel H. Jackson,

Captain Shaw,

Lieutenant-colonel Hull,

Lieutenant-colonel Maxwell,

Colonel Courtlandt.

General Baron de Steuben acquainted the convention that he had, agreeably to their request, at the last meeting, transmitted to his excellency the chevalier de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary from the court of France, a copy of the institution of the society of the Cincinnati, with their vote respecting his excellency, and the other characters therein mentioned; and that his excellency had returned an answer, declaring his acceptance of the same, and expressing the grateful sense he entertains of the honour conferred on himself. and the other gentlemen of the French nation, by this act of the convention.

Resolved, That the letter of the chevalier de la Luzerne be recorded in the proceedings of this day, and deposited in the archives of the society, as a testimony of the high sense this convention entertains of the honour done to the society by his becoming a member thereof.

Resolved, That his excellency the commander in chief be requested to officiate as president general, until the first general meeting, to be held in May next.

That a treasurer-general, and a secretary-general be ballotted for, to officiate in like manner.

The ballots being taken, major-general M'Dougall, was elected treasurer-general, and major-general Knox, secretary-general, who are hereby requested to accept said appointments.

Resolved, That all the proceedings of this convention, including the institution of the society, be recorded (from the original papers in his possession) by captain Shaw, who at the first meeting was requested to act as secretary, and that the same, signed by the president, secretary, together with the original papers, be given into the hands of major-general Knox, secretary-general to the society ; and that captain North, aid-

de-camp to the baron de Steuben, and acting secretary to him as president, sign the said records.

The dissolution of a very considerable part of the army, since the last meeting of this convention, having rendered the attendance of some of its members impracticable, and the necessity for some temporary arrangements, previous to the first meeting of the general society, being so strikingly obvious, the convention found itself constrained to make those before mentioned, which they have done with the utmost diffidence of themselves, and relying entirely on the candor of their constituents to make allowance for the measure : The principal objects of its appointment being thus accomplished, the members of this convention think fit to dissolve the same, and it is hereby dissolved accordingly.

INSTITUTION
OF THE
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
AS ALTERED AND AMENDED
AT THEIR FIRST GENERAL MEETING, AT PHILADELPHIA,
MAY 15, 1784.

IT having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe to give success to the arms of our country, and to establish the United States free and independent : Therefore, gratefully to commemorate this event ; to inculcate to the latest ages the duty of laying down in peace, arms assumed for public defence, by forming an institution which recognizes that most important principle ; to continue the mutual friendships which commenced under the pressure of common danger ; and to effectuate the acts of beneficence, dictated by the spirit of bro-

therly kindness towards those officers and their families, who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving them ; the officers of the American Army do hereby constitute themselves into a SOCIETY OF FRIENDS : and possessing the highest veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, Lucius Quintius Cincinnatus, denominate themselves the

SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

SECT. 1. The persons who constitute this society are all the commissioned and brevet officers of the army and navy of the United States, who have served three years, and who left the service with reputation ; all officers who were in actual service at the conclusion of the war ; all the principal staff officers of the continental army ; and the officers who have been deranged by the several resolutions of Congress, upon the different reforms of the army.

SECT. 2. There are also admitted into this society, the late and present ministers of his Most Christian Majesty to the United States ; all the generals and colonels of regiments and legions of the land forces ; all the admirals and captains of the navy, ranking as colonels, who have co-operated with the armies of the United States, in their exertions for liberty ; and such other persons as have been admitted by the respective state meetings.

SECT. 3. The society shall have a president, vice-president, secretary, and assistant secretary.

SECT. 4. There shall be a meeting of the society, at least once in three years, on the first Monday in May, at such place as the president shall appoint.

The said meeting shall consist of the aforesaid officers (whose expenses shall be equally borne by the state funds) and a representation from each state.

The business of this general meeting shall be, to regulate the distribution of surplus funds ; to appoint officers for the ensuing term ; and to conform the bye-laws of the state meetings to the general objects of the institution.

SECT. 5. The society shall be divided into state meetings : each meeting shall have a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively ; to be chosen by a majority of votes annually.

SECT. 6. The state meetings shall be on the Anniversary of Independence. They shall concert such measures as may conduce to the benevolent purposes of the society : and the several state meetings shall, at suitable periods, make applications to their respective legislatures for grants of charters.

SECT. 7. Any member removing from one state to another, is to be considered, in

all respects as belonging to the meeting of the state in which he shall actually reside.

SECT. 8. The state meeting shall judge of the qualification of its members, admonish, and (if necessary) expel any one who may conduct himself unworthily.

SECT. 9. The secretary of each state meeting, shall register the names of the members resident in each state, and transmit a copy thereof to the secretary of the society.

SECT. 10. In order to form funds for the relief of unfortunate members, their widows and orphans, each officer shall deliver to the treasurer of the state meeting one month's pay.

SECT. 11. No donations shall be received, but from citizens of the United States.

SECT. 12. The funds of each state meeting shall be loaned to the state by permis-

sion of the legislature, and the interest only, annually to be applied for the purposes of the society: and if, in process of time, difficulties should occur in executing the intentions of the society, the legislatures of the several states shall be requested to make such equitable dispositions as may be most correspondent with the original design of the institution.

SECT. 13. The subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, members of this society, may hold meetings at their pleasure, and form regulations for their police, conformably to the objects of the institution, and to the spirit of their government.

SECT. 14. The society shall have an order; which shall be a bald eagle of gold, bearing on its breast the emblems hereafter described, suspended by a deep blue ribbon edged with white, descriptive of the union of America and France:

“The principal figure
CINCINNATUS,

THREE SENATORS

Presenting him with a sword and other

MILITARY ENSIGNS.

On a field in the back ground,

HIS WIFE

Standing at the door of their cottage ;

Near it

A plough and other implements of HUSBANDRY.

Round the whole,

OMNIA RELIQUIT SERVARE REMPUBLICAM.

On the reverse,

SUN rising ; a city with open gates, and

VESSELS entering the port ;

FAME

Crowning CINCINNATUS with a wreath,

Inscribed

VIRTUTIS PRÆMIUM.

Below,

HANDS joined, supporting a HEART,

With the motto,

ESTO PERPETUA.

Round the whole,

SOCIETAS CINCINNATORUM INSTITUTA,

A. D. 1783.”

SECT. 15. A silver medal, representing the emblems, to be given to each member of the society ; together with a diploma on parchment, whereon shall be impressed the figures of the order and medal, as above mentioned.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
AT THEIR SEVERAL
TRIENNIAL AND EXTRA-GENERAL MEETINGS,
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA.

TRIENNIAL MEETING,
MAY, 1787.

PRESENT....NINE STATE SOCIETIES REPRESENTED.

It appears from the proceedings of this meeting that several of the state societies of Cincinnati, had not agreed to the alterations in the institution proposed at the last general meeting in 1784, and that those alterations cannot take effect, until they have been agreed to, by all the state societies : and it appearing to be the gene-

ral sense of the said societies, that some alterations in the institution ought to be made, and that such alterations as may be necessary, could not conveniently and effectually be made, but at a general meeting of the society of the Cincinnati specially authorized to agree upon and finally establish the same, it was therefore

“Resolved, That it be recommended to the several state societies to empower their delegates to agree upon and finally establish such alterations as may be necessary in the constitution of the society.”

EXTRA-GENERAL MEETING,

MAY, 1788.

Same resolve renewed.

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

MAY, 1790.

Seven societies represented, being barely a quorum to do business, and only fifteen members present,

“ Resolved, That an extra-general meeting be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Monday in May, 1791,” and passed the same recommendatory resolve as in 1787.

EXTRA-GENERAL MEETING,

MAY, 1791.

Nine societies represented, passed similar recommendatory resolve, as in 1787.

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

MAY, 1793.

Seven states represented, and but eleven members present,

“Unanimously resolved, That the several state societies of the Cincinnati be again strongly enjoined to send forward a full representation to the next triennial general meeting to be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Monday in May 1796, fully empowered to agree upon and finally establish all such alterations as may be thought necessary, in the general constitution of the Cincinnati.

“That it be recommended to the state societies to resolve that any amendments or alterations in the institution of the society of the Cincinnati, which may be concurred in by the representation of seven state societies, in the next general meeting, shall be obligatory upon them, and inviolably observed, by every state society, although not therein represented : and to transmit such resolve duly authenticated to the secretary-general.”

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

MAY 6, 1796.

(CIRCULAR.)

*To the President of the MASSACHUSETTS STATE SOCIETY
of the CINCINNATI.*

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 6, 1796.

SIR,

THE general society of the Cincinnati, convened agreeably to the original constitution, regret the necessity by which they are compelled to address the state societies in the language of complaint and remonstrance ; but anxious to perpetuate the benevolent motives, by which the officers of the American army were actuated at the triumphant close of an arduous eight years contest, they cannot forbear remarking on the supine, and, as they conceive, reprehensible conduct of the state societies, in thus repeatedly neglecting their representations in the general meeting.

Representatives only from the societies of Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South-Carolina, have met at this time ; and being incompetent to any other purposes of their appointment than the choice of officers for the ensuing three years, they are obliged, after several days unavailing attendance, to adjourn.

The inconvenience to delegates, who are sent from remote parts of the union, and the expense incurred by these fruitless attempts to transact the business of the society, are lost in the more important consideration that the very existence of the society is endangered by the continued inattention of the state societies, which inattention is by some, and not without apparent cause, construed into a designed dereliction of the institution itself.

The objects of the triennial meetings of 1790 and 1793, and of the extra meetings of 1788 and 1791, have all failed, from this unaccountable apathy on the part of some of the state societies ; and even the pro-

posed alteration of the constitution, which was deemed of sufficient importance to have claimed the immediate and animated attention of every state society, has shared the fate of other propositions, and remains yet undetermined.

To facilitate the discussion of this primary object, and to render the final decision thereon as certain and convenient as possible, it was proposed to the state societies, by the general meeting in 1793, that they should pass resolutions, to be transmitted to the secretary-general, declaring the consent of seven states, in general meeting, competent to make such alterations in the original constitution, as should be thought advantageous and necessary. It is painful to observe, that answers from five state societies only have yet been made to this interesting communication.

The delegates to the present general meeting actuated by the spirit of their constituents, and alarmed at the indifference

which has hitherto prevailed, beg leave most earnestly to solicit the attention of such state societies, as have heretofore neglected it, to this important object ; and they recommend that every exertion be made towards completing the state representations in the next triennial general meeting, and to guard against the consequence of any failure therein, it is requested that the several state societies would, in the intermediate time, transmit their resolutions, relative to the requisition of 1793, to the secretary-general.

When the objects contemplated in this recommendation and request are considered, when it is understood that the means of improving the intercourse between state and general meetings, a final decision on the constitution, and even the duration of the society, may depend on what is now to be done by the state societies, the general meeting cannot but be persuaded of a prompt and effectual compliance with what

they here respectfully purpose, and anxiously enjoin upon their brethren of the state societies.

Thomas Mifflin, vice-president.

John S. Dexter, Rhode-Island.

Ephraim Kirby, }
Benjamin Tallmadge, } Connecticut.

Elias Boudinot, }
Aaron Ogden, } New-Jersey.
Joseph Bloomfield, }

Thomas M'Kean, }
Stephen Moylan, }
Richard Peters, } Pennsylvania.
William Jackson, }

Thomas H. M'Calla, }
Thomas Tudor Tucker, }
James Kennedy, } S. Carolina.
John Markland, }

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

MAY, 1799.

PRESENT.

Delegates from New-Jersey and Pennsylvania :....not being sufficient societies represented to form a quorum,

“It was moved by General Dayton and seconded by General Beatty, that when the general society adjourn, they adjourn to meet in the city of Philadelphia on the first Monday in May next.”

“It was resolved, that the secretary-general be instructed to write to the presidents of the several state societies, transmitting a copy of the letter which was addressed to the state societies by the delegates to the last general meeting, and urging in the most pointed terms, the necessity of a particular attention to the objects therein enjoined.”

ADJOURNED GENERAL MEETING,

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 6, 1800.

PRESENT.

Major William Jackson, secretary-general.

DELEGATES.

General Shepherd,	}	Massachusetts.
Mr. Edwards,		

Rev. Dr. Hitchcock.	Rhode-Island.
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General Huntington,	}	Connecticut.
Colonel Talmadge,		

Colonel Lawrence,	New-York.
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General Dayton,	}	New-Jersey.
General Bloomfield,		
General Beatty,		

General Moylan,	}	Pennsylvania.
Colonel Pickering,		
Mr. Bingham,		
Mr. Biddle,		
Mr. Peters,		

General Howard,	}	Maryland.
General Smith,		

Major Pinckney,	}	South-Carolina.
Captain Markland,		

Colonel Pickering was chosen chairman of the meeting.

Credentials from the following state societies to their delegates to the present general meeting, were read and filed.

Massachusetts,	Pennsylvania,
Rhode-Island,	Maryland,
Connecticut,	South-Carolina.
New-Jersey,	

The proceedings of the last general meeting were read.

The following circular letter from the secretary-general to the presidents of the several state societies, transmitting a copy of the letter which was addressed by the general meeting of May 1796, to the state societies, was laid before the meeting.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 24, 1799.

SIR,

In pursuance of an instruction by the delegates who attended the last general meeting of the Cincinnati, I do myself the honour to transmit to you a copy of the letter, which was addressed by the general meeting of 1796 to the several state societies, which you will be pleased to lay before your state society at their next annual meeting.

It is intended by again submitting this interesting letter to the consideration of the state societies, to call their attention, in the most earnest manner, to the important objects, which it enjoins.

The delegates to the general meeting, appointed to be held in this city, on the first Monday of the present month, not constituting a quorum to transact any other business than the election of officers for the ensuing three years, resolved to adjourn

the general meeting to the first Monday in May next, and to request that the several state societies would appoint and instruct delegates to attend at the city of Philadelphia on that day.

It was supposed that every doubt of a full representation, and punctual attendance, might be obviated by suggesting to the state societies the expediency of appointing such of their members as would be attendant on the federal government, delegates to the general meeting of the Cincinnati, which is to be held in this city on the first Monday in May next.

Permit me to solicit your particular attention to this communication ; and to assure you of the respectful attachment, with which

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

WILLIAM JACKSON,

Secretary-general of the Cincinnati.

It was moved by Mr. Bingham, and seconded by general Bloomfield,

That a respectful testimonial to the memory of General WASHINGTON be entered on the records of the general society of the Cincinnati, which was unanimously agreed to ; and

Mr. Bingham, Major Pinckney, and General Dayton, were appointed a committee to prepare and report the same.

On motion,

General Bloomfield, Dr. Hitchcock, and General Huntington, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the society ; and report to this meeting, the state of the institution.

Adjourned.

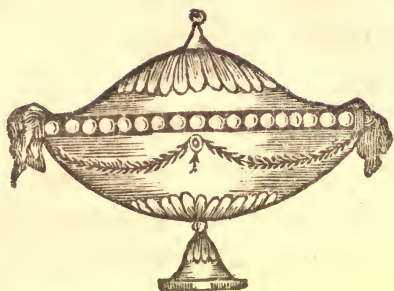
MAY 7, 1800.

PRESENT.

Colonel Pickering,	Chairman.
Major Jackson,	Secretary-general.
General Macpherson,	Treasurer-general.

And delegates as yesterday. The credentials from the New-York state society to their delegates were read and filed.

Mr. Bingham, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported the following testimonial of respect to the memory of General WASHINGTON, which was twice read, unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be entered on the records of the society, as the first act of the present general meeting after its organization.



UNDER the most profound impression of veneration and affection, the society of the Cincinnati, at a general meeting, are called upon to express the mournful tribute of their sorrow, at that awful dispensation of Providence, which has recently removed from their councils, their much revered and lamented president-general.

The arduous, though successful struggle which terminated in establishing the liberties of our country, and in which they fought under his banners, and shared with him the dangers and toils of the field, attached him to this society by ties, of the most intimate and endearing nature. His valor and prudence seemed to control the

events of war, led the American armies to victory, and achieved the independence of their country. Whilst mingling their tears with those of their fellow citizens, they are naturally impelled to pour out the effusions of a deeper regret, for the irreparable loss which they have sustained.

But it is not only in their relationship to this illustrious character, as soldiers, that the society of the Cincinnati have cause to deplore his loss.

When the storm of war had ceased to rage, and the blessings of peace had been restored, their country was suffering under the weakness of a confederation, which threatened the existence of that union, which their joint efforts in arms had so essentially contributed to establish.

With his auspicious co-operation, a constitution was formed, calculated by its wisdom and energy, to redeem us from that prostrate state, to which we had been re-

duced, and to restore that reputation which our country had lost, from the imbecility of the old system. The administration of the government was committed to his care, and his country will ever hold in grateful remembrance, the inflexible virtue and fortitude, with which he conducted its affairs, and saved it from the effects of domestic faction and foreign intrigue.

After a second retirement from the active scenes of public life, in which his merits as a statesman, rivalled his fame as a soldier, his country at the approach of danger, again required his services. The crisis was important, and the situation delicate; a nation which had mingled its blood with ours, in the defence of our liberties, had now assumed a hostile appearance; a war from this unexpected quarter threatened the peace of our country.

WASHINGTON, who never hesitated when urged by a sense of duty, obeyed the call of the government. He again abandoned

his beloved retirement, hazarded a reputation, consummate in every point of view, and assumed the command of the armies. His military companions who had frequently witnessed the magnanimity of his conduct in seasons of adversity, as well as of triumph, felt the full force of their country's appeal to arms, whilst WASHINGTON was their leader.

In this momentous crisis of our affairs, by the inscrutable decrees of Heaven, he was snatched from America and the world.

Under this pressure of calamity, which more peculiarly operates upon the sensibilities of this society, their only consolation is derived from the animating reflection, that although he is summoned to the enjoyment of the happy destinies of a future state, the bright example of his virtues and talents will still survive, and the inheritance of his name prove a future incentive to heroes and legislators, who will strive to emulate his fame, and merit the glory he has acquired.

General Bloomfield, from the committee appointed to examine the records of the society, and report to this meeting the state of the institution, made report as follows :

The committee appointed to examine the records of the society, and to report to this meeting the state of the institution, as relative to the alteration of the constitution, which was proposed by the general meeting held in the city of Philadelphia, in the year 1784, beg leave to report,

That on inspecting the documents in the possession of the secretary-general, they do not find that any additional communications have been made from the several state societies, since the circular letter from the general meeting of 1796, on the subject of the proposed alteration above referred to.

From the silence which the state societies have observed, after the pressing circular letters of the general meeting, your



committee are led to conclude, that they do not accede to the proposed reform ; and your committee conceive therefrom that they are authorized to report to the general meeting.....

That the institution of the society of the the Cincinnati, remains as it was originally proposed and adopted by the officers of the American army at their cantonments on the banks of the Hudson-River, in 1783.

Joseph Bloomfield,	} Committee.
Enos Hitchcock,	
Eben. Huntington,	

May 7th, 1800.

Which report, on motion of General Smith, seconded by Colonel Lawrence, was unanimously adopted.

It was moved by Major Pinckney, seconded by General Howard,

That a majority of the state societies, which shall convene in general meeting, is competent to recommend alterations in the constitution, which alterations being afterwards assented to by seven state societies, shall be binding on all the state societies. —Provided, the consent to such alterations be reported by the societies agreeing to the same, to the next general meeting.

The ayes and noes on the foregoing resolution being taken by state societies, are as follows :

Massachusetts,	No.
Rhode-Island,	No.
Connecticut,	No.
New-York,	No.
New-Jersey,	No.
Pennsylvania,	No.
Maryland,	Divided.
South-Carolina,	Divided.

So it passed in the negative.

On motion of General Smith, seconded
by General Huntington,

It was resolved, that the next meeting of
the general society be held at the seat of
the government of the United States, on the
first Monday of May, 1802.

Adjourned.

WM. JACKSON, Secretary-general.

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

CITY OF WASHINGTON,
Seat of Government of the United States.

MAY, 1802.

There not being seven states represented, no business was done ; but it was recommended that the next triennial meeting be held in Philadelphia.

TRIENNIAL MEETING,

PHILADELPHIA, MAY, 1805.

But three state societies represented.

Major-General ELIAS DAYTON, Chairman.

Nothing done, but elect officers of the general society.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS
OF THE
STATE SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

THE first meeting of the subscribing members was holden at the cantonments of the Massachusetts line, on the banks of the Hudson, on the 9th of June, 1783; and at the adjourned meeting on the 20th of the same month, the State Society was completely organized by a choice of president, and the other officers, together with a standing committee for the year, and by directing the mode in which they were to discharge the powers and duties intrusted to them.

The next meeting was holden at Boston on the 18th of February, 1784. At this meeting five delegates were elected to attend the general meeting in Philadelphia; and a committee of three for each county in the commonwealth was chosen to inquire into the situation of distressed members.

At the annual meeting on the 5th July, 1784, the institution, as altered and amended at the general meeting of the delegates from the state societies at Philadelphia, on the 3d of May, of that year, was submitted to the members present for their consideration and confirmation.

And it was voted to petition the legislature to grant a charter of incorporation to the society. It was also determined that the right of joining the society should be limited to the present month, with the exception of those officers who had previously applied to sign the constitution; and with the further exception of the officers of the

navy, who were allowed one year more for that purpose.

July 4, 1786....The society voted to give special instructions to their delegates respecting the general constitution, as *altered and amended* at Philadelphia, in May 1784. On the 11th of October of this year, in consequence of a dangerous insurrection in the state, the society passed a number of resolves, expressive of their abhorrence of the nefarious acts of the insurgents, and of their determination to support the government at every hazard ; and also agreed upon a petition to the legislature, respecting the depreciated state of their funds and public securities.

At a special meeting on the 11th of April, 1787....The committee of thirteen, who at the preceding July meeting were appointed to draw up instructions for the delegates to the next triennial meeting of the general society, were authorized as a *standing committee* to meet monthly, to ex-

amine the claims of candidates for admission, and to transact all such other matters as might come before them for the best interests of the society ; five members to constitute a quorum. The general powers of this committee are indefinite, but it was the origin of the standing committee, to whom the administration of the funds and the general affairs of the society have been, since, uniformly intrusted.

At this meeting, it was voted that an oration should be delivered before the society on the 4th of the ensuing July ; and the standing committee were authorized to solicit and appoint a member for this purpose, and at their discretion to direct all the necessary arrangements suitable to the occasion.*

* There were six of these Orations, delivered by the following members :

General BROOKS	in	1787
General HULL	-	1788
Doctor WHITWELL	-	1789
Colonel TUDOR	-	1790
Doctor EUSTIS,	-	1791
THOMAS EDWARDS, Esq.		1792

The four first of which were printed.

At the annual meeting on the 4th of July, 1787....It was resolved, that a committee of thirteen be annually chosen, to be called the standing committee, with similar powers to those given the committee the preceding year ; and that the officers of the society should be members thereof, ex officio ; and that five members should constitute a quorum for transacting business. The proceedings of the general meeting holden at Philadelphia were read ; and it was voted that the recommendation included in said proceedings, for a special general meeting on the first Monday of May next ensuing, should be complied with.

July 4, 1788....A letter from the delegates to the general society was read, and referred to the standing committee, to act thereon according to their best discretion.

July 4, 1789....At this meeting a vote passed, granting relief to a distressed member ; which was the first instance of the bounty of the society having been solicited. Four delegates were selected to attend the

general meeting the following May, who were instructed to strictly follow the instructions given to the delegates to the triennial meeting in 1786.

At the annual meeting in July, 1790....A circular letter from the secretary-general was read. Five delegates were appointed to attend the general meeting at Philadelphia, and the standing committee directed to give instructions to the members who should attend the general meeting, conforming to those formerly given by the society. The public securities belonging to the society were ordered to be registered in the books of the society, and the treasurer to give bond to the satisfaction of the standing committee for the faithful discharge of his trust.

July 4, 1791.....The state of the funds was laid before the society. Circular letters from the secretary-general accompanied with the proceedings of the general society holden at Philadelphia in May, were read and referred to the standing commit-

tee ; as were also the proceedings of the extra general meeting. The standing committee now chosen were authorized and empowered to afford relief to such subjects as were intended to be thus aided by our original association ; not more than twenty dollars to be granted to an individual, nor more than one fourth part of the annual interest of the funds to be thus appropriated.

At the annual meeting, 1792....It was determined that no person in future should be admitted a member but by ballot. At this meeting the unprecedented vote passed of ordering that the standing committee of the last year, should serve as such for the ensuing year.

July 4, 1793....The proceedings of the general society at the fourth triennial meeting were laid before the society, and were referred for consideration to the next annual meeting. A standing committee were

chosen by ballot, and invested with the usual powers.

July 4, 1794....At this meeting an assistant-secretary and an assistant-treasurer were chosen ; and it was ordered that in future the expenses of the annual dinner should be defrayed out of the interest created by the funds. And the treasurer was directed to reserve a sufficient sum for the expenses of the annual festival of the society, and that portion of the interest appropriated to the benevolent purposes of the society, and to vest the remainder in public stock. The original diplomas then on hand were ordered to be delivered to the members applying for the same, at two dollars each, and that the money thence arising should be appropriated to refund the same sum to those members who had paid four dollars for their certificates.

At a special meeting of the society on the 3d day of February, 1796....Five dele-

gates were chosen to attend the general meeting, any *three* of whom, and no more, were to go on. And the treasurer was directed to advance to each gentleman who should proceed, one hundred dollars, and their whole expenses were to be defrayed by the society. It was further voted, that such amendments as should be agreed upon at the general meeting, shall become a part of the institution, and binding on the several state societies, as soon as the same shall be ratified by *nine* of those societies ; but that no alteration with respect to the funds shall be admitted, so as in any way to affect the exclusive possession and entire control of the same, as now invested in each separate state association.

At the annual meeting, July 4, 1796..... It was voted that the standing committee distribute the entire annual interest of the funds, not otherwise appropriated by the society, among the unfortunate members, or their widows or orphans, at such times and in such proportions, as the committee

shall think proper. And in order that distant objects may not suffer from a want of information of the time and place of distribution, the committee were instructed to give public notice of their meetings for this purpose, to whom applications might be made, and when the money granted should be paid, in order that the bounty might be as equally and extensively shared, as originally contemplated by the institution.

At the meeting of July 4, 1798....An address was voted to the President of the United States, on the critical and menacing aspect of the country, as it respected the French Republic, and pledging the society to support their government with all their energies.

At the annual meeting July 4, 1799.... Voted, that a delegation of three members be sent to the general meeting at Philadelphia the ensuing May ; and that this meeting be adjourned to the third Wednesday in January following ; and that the stand-

ing committee be directed and empowered to report what measures should be adopted in consequence of the circular letter from the triennial meeting, and of the following letter and proceedings of the state society of South Carolina.

LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI OF
THE STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

*To the President and Members of the SOCIETY OF THE
CINCINNATI in the State of Massachusetts.*

GENTLEMEN,

BY a resolution of the Society of the Cincinnati, established in the state of South Carolina, we herewith transmit a copy of a report for the perpetuation of the same, recommended by a committee appointed to consider the most eligible plan for the accomplishment of so desirable an event, and adopted accordingly.

We consider it as a duty to our brethren and fellow soldiers in the several states

throughout the union, together with the communication of the report in question, to give a brief statement of the reasons which caused it to be sanctioned by the fullest approbation of the society, and confidently hope, that they will appear to *them* as to *ourselves*, strongly impressive of the necessity which gave them birth.

It is a melancholy truth, that in a climate but too apt to increase the infirmities of human nature, and sap the constitution of man—that deaths have been particularly frequent among the soldiers of the revolutionary war. Already enfeebled by the severity of service, the encroachments of disease have been rapid, and fatally destructive, in so much, that by far the greater proportion of original members, composing the state society, have been hurried by its progress to an untimely grave ; and to the few who yet existed (without the application of some effectual remedy) no prospect remained but its speedy and total extinction.

Under such circumstances, nothing could appear more natural than that men originally associated in the noblest cause that ever did honour to humanity ; animated by the same spirit, in a virtuous struggle for liberty ; their friendships increased by their difficulties, and often cemented with their blood ; should wish to see renewed in their posterity, those ties of affection which in the hour of contention lightened the calamities of war, and enhanced when peace and independence were obtained, by the exchange of reciprocal good offices, every blessing they bestow.

To our country, every institution that can cherish in the youthful mind an ambition to excel in honorable pursuits, must necessarily be of the highest importance. To those who are deemed worthy, the door is now opened for admission ; and at a critical period like the present, when the heart of every American youth beats high with just indignation at the insults offered his country, we hope that an opportunity of ad-

mission into our ancient society, will operate as a strong incitive to activity and vigorous exertion, that cannot fail to produce the most decidedly beneficial effects.

We think it, in addition to these motives, only necessary to add—That our funds collected for the purposes of benevolence and humanity, and hitherto appropriated to the relief of such of our unfortunate brethren as have sunk under the pressure of disease or misfortune, were likely to pass into other hands, and be diverted into different channels. To avoid which, and for the reasons already declared, the report has met with the sanction of our society, and we fondly hope will be countenanced by the approbation of our fellow soldiers throughout United America.

With the highest respect and esteem, we are, gentlemen, your most obedient serv'ts.

Alexander Garden,	} Committee.
William Read,	
J. Reid,	

Charleston, May 23, 1799.

Extract from the Journals of the SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI of the State of South-Carolina.

“March 4, 1799....The committee who were appointed at the last meeting to digest the report of the committee for perpetuating the society, as agreed the 25th ult. reported the same, which was read, adopted. and is as follows :

“REPORT.

“That it be recommended as a line of conduct for this society in future to observe, should the general society not think proper to adopt a system for perpetuating the same....

“1. That all the sons of original members, and all the male descendants of any original members, whether such descent be derived through a male or female branch, or of such officers, as having served with reputation, died during the last war, or having been entitled to become members, died

within six months after the army was disbanded, who may be judged worthy of becoming its members and supporters, may be elected into this society on application, after attaining the age of twenty-one years, provided three-fourths of a legal quarterly meeting are in his favour. That each member so elected shall pay into the hands of the treasurer, for the use of the fund, the sum of thirty dollars.

“2. That all the officers commissioned, staff, or brevet, who have served in the army or navy of the United States, since the peace with Great Britain, for six years, and who still continue therein, or who, after having served as aforesaid for six years, left the service with reputation, or who shall have been deranged by any act or resolution of the Congress of the United States, after having served with reputation for three years, and all those who are or shall hereafter be appointed to a command in the army or navy of the United States, commissioned, brevet, or staff, and who shall

have served therein with reputation for six years, or who shall be deranged by any act or resolution of Congress, after a service with reputation of three years, may be admitted into this society, upon application, by election, provided three-fourths of a legal quarterly meeting are in his favour, and upon payment of one month's pay into the treasury of this society, according to the respective ranks of the applicants for admission.

“3. No election shall be valid, without the name of the candidate shall be openly proposed, at a regular quartely meeting previous to the quarterly meeting, at which the ballot shall be held.”



At a special meeting of the society, 15th Jan. 1800....Ordered, that the members of the society continue to wear a black crape cockade in the hat till the 5th day of July next, as a badge of mourning for their deceased president-general, GEORGE WASH-

INGTON ; and that an oration be delivered, by a member to be appointed by the standing committee, at the anniversary meeting in July, commemorative of the American revolution, and of the heroic virtues and talents which distinguished the eventful life of that illustrious man.

At this meeting the standing committee made the following report :

The standing committee of the society of the Cincinnati of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, to whom was referred a circular letter from the general meeting held in Philadelphia, May 24, 1799, together with a letter from the society of South Carolina, dated May 23, 1799, and sundry other proceedings of the general meeting, report as follows :

By the first institution of the society, formed A. D. 1783, the officers of the American army associated "to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of *their*

eldest male posterity, and in failure thereof, the *collateral branches who may be judged worthy* of becoming members," &c. By this institution, the *eldest male branches* of officers who died in the service, had also a right to become members.

In the year 1784, an alteration of the original institution was proposed by the general meeting, and transmitted to the several state societies. By this constitution, the hereditary succession was done away without substituting any means of preserving the existence of the society.

On the 4th of July, 1784, the institution, "as altered and amended," was accepted by the society of Massachusetts.

July 4, 1786 : The Massachusetts society voted as follows, viz. "That the vote of the society, passed July 4, 1784, accepting the institution as altered and amended, be reconsidered so far as to give instructions to the delegates to be chosen to the next

general meeting respecting the said institution."

In April, 1787, instructions were given. These instructions provided that vacancies should be supplied by elections from the eldest male heirs of deceased members, and that no alterations should be made by virtue of which the funds could be removed from the possession and control of the state societies. With these instructions, delegates went on from Massachusetts. Nothing done.

In 1789, they were given again in substance. Nothing done.

In 1791, continued ; and nothing effected.

The general meeting recommended to the state societies to pass votes rendering valid the proceedings of seven states present at a general meeting. This was in 1793.

By which it appears, that, as the vote of of Massachusetts, "accepting the institution as altered and amended," was afterwards reconsidered, and as a number of the other state societies did not accept the same, the society rests on the original institution of A. D. 1783.

The committee now propose the following votes for the consideration of the society :

1. In lieu of the hereditary succession provided by the original institution, it is the opinion of this society, that vacancies should be supplied by an election of members by ballot, in which the eldest male heir of a deceased officer should be considered the candidate, and that the assent of three-fourths of the members present at a regular meeting, should be necessary to his admission ; and in case such candidate should fail to be admitted by the before mentioned majority, the next eldest male heir should

become the next candidate, and so on until an election should be effected.

2. That all such alterations and amendments of the institution of the Cincinnati as shall be concurred in by the representatives of seven state societies present in the next general meeting, shall be obligatory, and inviolably observed by every state society ; excepting that no alteration or amendment shall be made or become obligatory by virtue of which the funds shall be removed from the possession and control of the state societies.

3. That the delegates to the next general meeting be furnished with an attested copy of the preceding votes for their instruction and government ; and that in any other alterations which may be proposed, the society confide in their discretion and judgment to make such decision as shall promote the honour and interests of the institution.

Which report, having been read and considered, was accepted and confirmed by the society.

At the anniversary meeting in 1800.... The proceedings of the general meeting at Philadelphia, in the preceding month of May, were laid before the society. Voted, That the standing committee procure three hundred printed copies of the original institution, together with the names of the original members of this state association for the use of the society.

At the annual meeting in 1801.... Voted, That the standing committee consist of *fifteen* members, with the usual powers ; and that *seven* members form the quorum for granting any money.

At a special meeting on the 7th of April, 1802.... A letter from the secretary-general, urging the attendance of delegates at the triennial meeting at Washington, on the first Monday of May next ensuing, was

read, and thereupon voted, That two members be sent, with instructions conformable to the resolutions of the society adopted in January, 1800.

At the anniversary meeting in 1803.... Ordered, that the standing committee be instructed to prefer a memorial to the legislature, at such time as they shall think most proper, for an act of incorporation for the better security and management of the society's funds.

At the July meeting in 1804....A letter from a number of members of this society now inhabitants in the state of Ohio, was read and referred to the standing committee specially to consider the same, and report at the next annual meeting.

At the anniversary meeting in 1805.... A report of the standing committee was made as follows, to wit :

THE standing committee, to whom was referred the petition of General Rufus Putnam, and our other brethren resident in the state of Ohio, praying that a certain proportion of this state society's funds, equal to what they, the petitioners, originally subscribed and paid in, may be refunded and transmitted them for the purpose of forming a fund for a society of Cincinnati, which they have thought proper to create in that state—After having maturely considered the subject of said petition, and given it all that deliberate and candid attention, which is so justly due to their distant and respected brothers, find themselves compelled unanimously to report, that the prayer of said petition cannot be acceded to, and for the following reasons :

1. By the constitution of the society it was clearly intended to form one family of brethren, to consist of *thirteen* cantons, and *no more*, forever. Nor is there any provision either expressed or implied, given, either to the general meeting, or to either of

the state societies, to create any additional society, or to transfer any part of the original funds for this purpose.

2. The stock of the Massachusetts Cincinnati was expressly subscribed and paid into the treasury for the exclusive use of the members of that state society, so long as they should continue members, and no longer. Could a few individuals detach themselves, and erect another state society, others might withdraw themselves and funds, and erect branches in the same state ; and thus the strength and respectability of the original institution be weakened, and one of its most important objects be defeated.

3. Should the request of the memorialists be acceded to, we should set a precedent, which might render us obnoxious to the censure of other state societies ; and our authority so to act disputed and denied by the general society ; and thus a spirit of discord be introduced, to the infinite detri-

ment of that union, upon which the common good of our institution is so dependant.

Whilst bound to state this our dissent to a novel, and what we must consider an irregular proposal, we wish our worthy brethren of the Ohio, our faithful comrades in honour and in toil, to be assured of our unabated friendship ; that we hold their subscriptions as a sacred deposit for their benefit, in common with the other members ; and that if misfortune at any time should compel an application for pecuniary aid, we will most cheerfully and promptly give to it all the weight, which the individual would be entitled to, were he an inhabitant of any part of this commonwealth.

Which report was unanimously accepted, and a copy of the same ordered to be transmitted by the secretary to brigadier-general Putnam, at Marietta.

July 4, 1806....Was holden the first meeting under the act of incorporation passed March 13, 1806, in the words following :

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six.

An act to incorporate Benjamin Lincoln and others into a society, by the name of The Society of the Cincinnati within the State of Massachusetts.

WHEREAS upon the dissolution of the American revolutionary army, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three, Benjamin Lincoln and others, officers in the Massachusetts line of said army, did associate for the purpose of forming a fund to be forever thereafter appropriated for the relief of the indigent members of said association, and the widows and orphans of said members ; and in order to secure the said fund, and fulfil

the charitable designs of the said institution, have petitioned to be incorporated :

SECT. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said Benjamin Lincoln and his associates, together with such others as may be admitted members of said association, be, and they hereby are incorporated into a society by the name of The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, with power to have a common seal, to make contracts relative to the objects of the said charitable fund ; to sue and to be sued ; to establish bye-laws and orders for the regulation of said society, and the preservation and application of the funds thereof, provided the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth ; and to take, hold, and possess any estate, real or personal, by subscription, gift, grant, purchase, devise, or otherwise ; and the same to improve, lease, exchange, or sell and convey for the sole benefit of said in-

stitution ; provided, the value of the real estate of said society shall never exceed twenty thousand dollars, and the annual income of the whole estate of said society shall not exceed five thousand dollars.

SECT. 2. Be it further enacted, That the said society shall meet in Boston on the fourth day of July annually (unless the same should fall upon a Sunday, in which case the annual meeting shall always be holden on the day succeeding) for the purpose of electing by ballot, from their members, a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and such other officers as may be necessary to manage their concerns ; all which officers shall hold their said offices for one year, and until others shall be elected to succeed them ; and the officers for the time being shall publish a notification of the time and place of each annual meeting, in at least two newspapers, at least fourteen days before holding the same. Upon any urgent occasion the president or vice-president, or in their absence, the secretary, may

appoint a special meeting of said society, to be notified in the same manner as annual meetings.

SECT. 3. Be it further enacted, That the president, vice-president, and other officers of said society, chosen on the fourth day of July last, shall have the same authority to manage the concerns thereof, as is hereby vested in like officers to be hereafter annually chosen : Provided nevertheless, That this act of incorporation shall be determinable at the pleasure of the legislature.

This act passed March 13th, 1806.

At this meeting a number of regulations were adopted and ordered to be standing rules of the society. But being afterwards introduced into, and forming a part of the "Bye-Laws and Rules of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati," enacted and ordered at the annual meeting in 1811, are here omitted.

At the annual meeting in July 1810, Maj. General JOHN BROOKS was chosen president of the society, to supply the place of our venerable and much lamented president, General BENJAMIN LINCOLN, who had presided as head of the society from the organization thereof, in 1783, to the 9th of May, 1810, the day of his decease, with the entire approbation of every member, and the grateful tribute of his surviving comrades, for his happy guidance and affectionate attentions, during so long a period.

At this meeting it was voted, That the thanks of the society be presented to WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esq. for his long services as vice-president of the society, and that the secretary be directed to communicate the same to Doctor EUSTIS, at Washington, and to express their regret that any circumstance should render it inconvenient for him to occupy a station which has been a source of so much honourable satisfaction to his associates.

At the anniversary meeting, July 4, 1811
 ...The society voted, That the following
 standing regulations should serve as the
 BYE-LAWS AND RULES OF THE MASSA-
 CHUSETTS SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

BYE-LAWS AND RULES

OF

THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY

OF THE CINCINNATI.

1. THE officers of the society shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and an assistant-secretary and treasurer, each of whom shall, in virtue of his office, be a member of the standing committee of the year.

2. That there shall be annually elected, on the 4th of July, a committee consisting of twelve, in addition to the officers of the society, whose duty it shall be to take care

of the general concerns of the corporation, as well as of all matters specially committed to them by the society. They shall from the funds afford such relief to the members, or to their widows and orphans, as in their judgment shall become proper objects thereof, in such sums, and at such times as they shall think best, taking care that the interest only of the general stock of the society be appropriated for this purpose, and for that of defraying the necessary expenses of the society. They shall pay a special attention to the state of the treasury, and shall see that the treasurer give bond for the faithful discharge of his duty ; they shall from time to time credit his accounts, direct him in the exchange or purchase of stock, and in whatever the interest and security of the corporation may from time to time require. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be subject to the inspection of any member, and at the annual meeting shall be laid before the society and read.

3. The votes for the election of the officers of the society, and for the admission of members, shall always be by ballot, or written vote.

4. Five members of the standing committee shall be considered as a quorum for transacting the ordinary business ; but no appropriation of money shall be made unless seven members be present.

5. Every original candidate who shall be voted in, shall, at the time of his admission, pay such a sum in aid of the funds, as the standing committee shall adjudge to be reasonable.

6. Every person who may be desirous of becoming a member of the society, and who shall come within the terms of the original general institution, shall make his application to the standing committee in writing ; who shall advise thereon, and report their opinion to the society ; but no one shall be permitted to be a candidate under the age of twenty-one years.

7. Each person who shall be admitted a member in right of succession to a deceased member, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, in presence of the society :

" I having been admitted a member of the society of Cincinnati within the state of Massachusetts, as the true successor of , late a member of this society, and my deceased (father or brother, as the case may be) do solemnly promise and engage that I will duly conform to all the regulations established from time to time for the government of said society, as far as they shall have for their basis the principles of the original institution. In testimony whereof, I hereto subscribe my name, and pledge my sacred honour.

8. New members, who shall be admitted on the claim of succession, shall have a diploma or certificate, signed by the president, and countersigned by the secretary, of the form following, viz.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Be it known that is a member of the Society of Cincinnati, instituted by the officers of the American army at the period of its dissolution, as well to commemorate the great event which gave independence to the United States of America, as for the purpose of inculcating the duty of laying down in peace, arms assumed for public defence, and of uniting in acts of brotherly affection and bonds of perpetual friendship, the members constituting the same.

In testimony whereof, the seal
of the State Society of Cincinnati of Massachusetts is
(L. s.) hereunto affixed, and the
hand of the President, the
day of in the year
of our Lord eighteen hundred and .

By order.

President.

Secretary.

/

NAMES
OF
THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS,
ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

[Those marked thus * are dead.]

A

- ABBOTT STEPHEN, Captain.
Abbott Josiah, Ensign.
*Adams Henry, Regimental Surgeon.
Alden Judah, Captain.
Allen Noah, Major.
Allen Nathaniel C. Captain.
Ames Jotham, Lieutenant.
Andrews William, Lieutenant.
*Armstrong Samuel, Lieutenant.
*Ashley Moses, Major.
*Austin John, Lieutenant.

B

- Bailey Adams, Captain.
 Bailey Luther, Captain.
 Balcom Joseph, Lieutenant.
 *Baldwin Jeduthun, Colonel.
 Ballantine Ebenezer, Surgeon's Mate.
 Ballard William H. Major.
 *Bancroft James, Lieutenant.
 Barlow Joel, Chaplain.
 Bassett Barachiah, Lieutenant-Colonel.
 Baylies Hodijah, Lieutenant-Colonel.
 *Benson Joshua, Captain.
 *Baury de Bellerive, Captain.
 *Blake Edward, Lieutenant.
 Blanchard John, Captain.
 Bowles Ralph H. Lieutenant and Adjutant.
 Bowman Samuel, Lieutenant.
 *Bradford Gamaliel, Colonel.
 Bradford Robert, Captain.
 Bradford Andrew, Lieutenant.
 Bradford Gamaliel, Lieutenant.
 *Bramhall Joshua, Lieutenant.
 Brigham Origen, Surgeon's Mate.
 Brooks John, Lieutenant-Colonel-Comm.
 Brown Ebenezer, Lieutenant.
 Brown Oliver, Captain-Lieutenant.

- *Bugbee Edward, Lieutenant.
- *Bullard Asa, Lieutenant.
- Burbeck Henry, Captain.
- Burnham John, Major.
- *Bussey Isaiah, Captain-Lieutenant.

C

- Carleton Osgood, Lieutenant.
- Carleton Moses, Lieutenant.
- *Castaing Peter, Lieutenant.
- *Callender John, Captain-Lieutenant.
- *Chambers Matthew, Captain.
- Chapin Samuel, Lieutenant.
- *Clap Caleb, Captain.
- *Clap Joshua, Lieutenant.
- Clayes Peter, Captain.
- Cobb David, Lieut. Col. Commandant.
- *Cogswell Thomas, Major.
- Cogswell Amos, Captain.
- *Cogswell Samuel, Lieutenant.
- Condly Thomas H. Lieutenant.
- *Cook David, Captain.
- Cooper Ezekiel, Captain.
- Cooper Samuel, Adjutant.
- *Crane John, Colonel.
- *Crane John, Regimental Surgeon.
- *Crocker Joseph, Captain.

*Crowley Florence, Lieutenant.
 Cushing Nathaniel, Captain.
 Cushing Thomas, Lieutenant.

D

Dana Benjamin, Lieutenant.
 Danforth Joshua, Lieutenant.
 *Daniels Japheth, Captain.
 *Darby Samuel, Major.
 *Davis Ebenezer, Lt. and Brig. Quar. Mast.
 Davis James, Lieutenant.
 Davis John, Lieutenant and Adjutant.
 Dean Walter, Captain.
 Dix Nathan, Captain.
 Dodge Levi, Lieutenant.
 Drew Seth, Major.
 *Duffield John, Regimental Surgeon.

E

Eaton Benjamin, Lieutenant.
 *Edwards Thomas, Lieut. and Judge Adv.
 Egleston Azariah, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
 Emerson Nehemiah, Captain.
 Emery Ephraim, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
 Eustis William, Hospital Surgeon.
 Everett Pelatiah, Lieutenant.
 Eysandeau William, Lieutenant.



F

- *Felt Jonathan, Captain.
- Finley James E. B. Regimental Surgeon.
- *Finley Samuel, Regimental Surgeon.
- Fisk Joseph, Regimental Surgeon.
- *Floyd Ebenezer, Ensign.
- *Foster Thomas, Lieutenant.
- *Foster Elisha, Ensign.
- Fowles John, Captain.
- Freeman Constant, Captain-Lieutenant.
- *Freeman Thomas, D. Lieutenant.
- Frink Samuel, Ensign.
- Frost Samuel, Captain.
- *Frothingham Benjamin, Captain.
- Frye Frederick, Ensign.
- Fuller John, Captain.

G

- Garrett Andrew, Lieutenant.
- *Gardner James, Captain-Lieutenant.
- George John, Captain-Lieutenant.
- * Gibbs Caleb, Major.
- Gilbert Benjamin, Lieutenant.
- *Goodale Nathan, Captain.
- Goodwin F. L. B. Surgeon's Mate.
- *Greateon John, Brigadier-General.
- Greateon John W. Ensign.

Greaton Richard H. Ensign.

Green Francis, Captain.

Greenleaf William, Lieutenant.

*Gridley John, Captain-Lieutenant.

II

*Hall James, Lieutenant.

*Hamlin Africa, Ensign.

Hancock Belcher, Captain.

Hart John, Regimental Surgeon.

Hartshorn Thomas, Captain.

Harvey Elisha, Captain-Lieutenant.

Haskell Elnathan, Captain.

Haskell Jonathan, Lieutenant.

Hastings John, Captain.

Heath William, Major-General.

Heywood Benjamin, Captain.

Hildreth William, Lieutenant.

*Hill Jeremiah, Lieutenant.

Hinds Bartlett, Captain-Lieutenant.

*Hiwell John, Lt. and Inspector of Music.

*Hobby John, Captain.

Holbrook David, Captain.

Holden Aaron, Captain.

Holden Abel, Captain.

*Holden John, Lieutenant.

Holden Levi, Lieutenant.

Holland Ivory, Lieutenant.

Holland Park, Lieutenant.
 Hollister Jesse, Captain.
 Hooker Zibeon, Lieutenant.
 *Horton Elisha, Ensign.
 *Houdin M. G. Captain.
 *Howe Richard S. Ensign.
 Hull William, Lieutenant-Colonel.
 *Hunt Thomas, Captain.
 *Hunt Ephraim, Lieutenant.
 *Hurd John, Ensign.

I J

*Ingersoll George, Lieutenant.
 *Jackson Michael, Colonel.
 *Jackson Henry, Colonel.
 *Jackson Thomas, Captain.
 Jackson Simon, Captain.
 Jackson Daniel, Lieutenant.
 Jackson Ebenezer, Lieutenant.
 *Jackson Michael, Lieutenant.
 Jackson Amasa, Ensign.
 *Jackson Charles, Ensign.
 *Jefferds Samuel, Lieutenant.
 *Johnston John, Captain.

K

Killam Joseph, Captain.
 *King Zebulon, Captain.

- *Knapp Moses, Major.
- Knowles Charles, Captain-Lieutenant.
- *Knox Henry, Major-General.

L

- Larned Simon, Captain.
- Laughton William, Surgeon's Mate.
- Lee William R. Colonel.
- Lee Daniel, Captain.
- *Leavensworth Nathaniel, Surgeon's Mate.
- Leland Joseph, Lieutenant.
- Leonard Jacob, Ensign.
- *Lillie John, Captain.
- *Lincoln Benjamin, Major-General.
- Lincoln Rufus, Captain.
- *Liswell John, Lieutenant.
- Lockwood William, Chaplain.
- *Lord Jeremiah, Ensign.
- Lovell James, Lieutenant.
- Lunt Daniel, Captain.
- *Lyman Cornelius, Ensign.

M

- Marble Henry, Lieutenant.
- *Mason David, jun. Lieutenant.
- *Maxwell Hugh, Lieutenant-Colonel.
- *Maynard William, Captain.
- Maynard Jonathan, Captain.

Maynard John, Lieut. and Quarter-Master.
 M'Cay Daniel, Ensign.
 *McKendry William, Lieutenant.
 Means James, Captain.
 *Mellish Samuel, Lieutenant.
 *Miller Jeremiah, Captain.
 Miller Joseph, Lieutenant.
 *Mills John, Captain.
 *Mills William, Captain.
 Moore William, Captain.
 *Moore William, Lieutenant.
 Mooars Benjamin, Lieutenant.
 Morgan Benjamin, Surgeon's Mate.
 *Morrel Amos, Major.
 Morton Silas, Lieutenant.
 Myrick Samuel, Lieutenant.

N

Nason Nathaniel, Lieut. and Quarter-Mast.
 Nelson Henry, Lieutenant.
 *Newhall Ezra, Lieutenant-Colonel.
 *Newman Samuel, Lieutenant.
 *Nicholson Samuel, Captain of the Navy.
 *Nixon Thomas, Colonel.
 North William, Captain.

O

Oliver Robert, Major.

Oliver Alexander, Ensign.

P

Pardee Aaron, Lieutenant.

*Parker Elias, Lieutenant.

*Parker Benjamin, Lieutenant.

*Paterson John, Brigadier-General.

Peabody Ebenezer, Lieutenant.

Peirce Benjamin, Lieutenant.

Peirce Silas, Captain.

*Peirce John, Captain-Lieutenant.

*Perkins William, Major.

Peters Andrew, Lieutenant-Colonel.

*Pettingill Joseph, Major.

*Phelon Patrick, Lieutenant.

Phelon John, Lieutenant.

*Phelon Edward, Lieutenant.

Pike Benjamin, Captain.

Pope Isaac, Major.

*Porter Benjamin Jones, Surgeon's Mate.

Popkin John, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Pratt Joel, Lieutenant.

Prescott Joseph, Hospital-Mate.

*Putnam Rufus, Brigadier-General.

R

Randall Thomas, Captain.
*Rawson Jeduthun, Ensign.
Reab George, Lieutenant.
*Remick Timothy, Captain.
Rice Nathan, Major.
Rice Oliver, Lieutenant.
Richardson Abijah, Regimental Surgeon.
Rickard William, Lieutenant.
Ripley Hezekiah, Lieutenant.
*Rouse Oliver, Captain.
Rowe John, Ensign.

S

Sampson Crocker, Lieutenant.
Sargeant Winthrop, Captain.
Satterlee William, Major.
Savage Joseph, Captain.
*Savage Henry, Lieutenant.
Sawyer James, Ensign.
*Scammell Samuel L. Ensign.
Scott James, Ensign.
Selden Charles, Lieutenant.
Sever James, Ensign.
Sewall Henry, Captain.
*Seward Thomas, Captain.
*Shaw Samuel, Captain.

Shepherd William, Colonel.
 Shepherd William, Ensign.
 Shute Daniel, Regimental Surgeon.
 Smith Simeon, Captain.
 Smith Ebenezer, Captain.
 Smith Ebenezer, Captain.
 Smith John K. Captain.
 Smith Sylvanus, Captain.
 Smith Joseph, Lieutenant.
 Smith Josiah, Lieutenant.
 *Spring Simeon, Lieutenant.
 *Sprout Ebenezer, Lieut. Col. Com.
 *Stacey William, Lieutenant-Colonel.
 *Stafford John R. Ensign.
 Stephens William, Captain.
 *Stocker Ebenezer, Lieutenant.
 *Stone Jonathan, Captain.
 *Stone Nathaniel, Lieutenant.
 Storer Ebenezer, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
 *Story William, Captain.
 *Story John.
 *Sumner Job, Major.
 *Swan Caleb, Ensign.

T

Taylor Othniel, Captain.
 Taylor William, Lieut. and Quarter-Master.
 Taylor Tertius, Lieutenant.

- *Thacher Nathaniel, Lieutenant.
- Thacher James, Regimental Surgeon.
- Thomas Joseph, Captain.
- Thomas John, Regimental Surgeon.
- Thompson Thaddeus, Lieutenant Colonel.
- Tisdale James, Captain.
- Torrey William, Lieutenant and Adjutant.
- Town Jacob, Lieutenant.
- Townsend David, Hospital Surgeon.
- *Treadwell William, Captain.
- Trescott Lemuel, Major.
- *Trowbridge Luther, Lieutenant.
- *Trotter John, Captain.
- Tudor William, Lieutenant-Colonel, and
Judge Advocate General.
- *Tucker Joseph, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
- *Tupper Benjamin, Colonel.
- Tupper Anselm, Lieut. and Adjutant.
- *Turner Thomas, Captain.
- Turner Jonathan, Captain.
- Turner Marlbury, Lieutenant.
- *Turner Peleg, Lieutenant.

V

- Vose Joseph, Colonel.
- Vose Elijah, Lieutenant-Colonel.
- *Vose Thomas, Captain.

W

- *Wales Joseph, Lieutenant.
- Walker Robert, Captain.
- *Walker Edward, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
- Wardwell Joseph, Lieutenant.
- Warren Adriel, Lieutenant.
- Warren John, Lieutenant.
- Warren James, jun. Lieutenant of the Navy.
- Watson William, Captain.
- Wattles Mason, Captain.
- Webb George, Captain.
- Webber Daniel, Lieutenant.
- *Wellington Elisha, Lieutenant.
- *Wells Thomas, Captain.
- Wells Benjamin, Lieutenant.
- Wells James, Lieutenant.
- *Wesson James, Colonel.
- *White Haffield, Captain.
- *White Edward, Lieutenant.
- *Whiting John, Lieutenant.
- *Whitwell Samuel, Surgeon.
- *Wilds Ebenezer, Lieutenant.
- *Williams Abraham, Captain.
- Williams John, Captain.
- Williams Joseph, Captain.
- Williams Robert, Lieut. and Pay-Master.
- Williams Ebenezer, Lieutenant.
- *Wing Jonathan, Ensign.

Winslow John, Captain.

Woodbridge Christopher, Captain.

*Woodward Samuel, Surgeon's Mate.

Y

Yeomans John, Lieutenant.

MEMBERS

WHO JOINED THE SOCIETY IN OTHER STATES, AND NOW
RESIDE IN THIS.

Henry Dearborn, Colonel.

Joseph Clark, Lieutenant.

Andrew Craigie, Apothecary General.

Whole number 336

Deceased members 134

Survivors 202

MEMBERS

ELECTED ON THE CLAIM OF SUCCESSORS.

Thomas Austin, 1802

Horace Binney, } 1796

John Callender,

*William Shaw,	1800
Thomas Newhall,	} 1802
John Bryant,	
Thomas Seward,	
Thomas Nixon,	
Thomas Jackson,	
*Henry Newman,	
Thomas Howe,	} 1803
Charles P. Sumner,	
Samuel M. Crocker,	} 1804
Elisha Willington,	
Samuel Perkins,	
John Maynard,	
Joseph Pierce,	} 1808
Samuel Adams Wells,	
Thomas Sprout,	
John H. Crane,	} 1809
Luke Baldwin,	
Edward Jackson,	
Charles Stewart Davis,	
James Bancroft,	
Samuel Armstrong.	







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